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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Akira OKAMOTO et al

S. N. 09/980,959

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

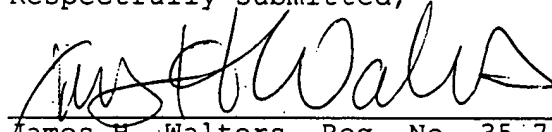
Applicants wish to draw attention to the document listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449, a copy of which document is enclosed.

The document was cited in the counterpart PCT patent application, and a copy of the International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)) is enclosed.

Pursuant to MPEP 609 A(3), it is believed that the indication of relevance of the non-English document given in the International Search Report satisfies the requirement in 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of relevance with respect to this non-English document.

Pursuant to MPEP 609, it is requested that the Examiner should initial Form PTO-1449 to confirm that the document has been considered, and return a copy of the form to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as first class mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 24th day of January, 2002.

